

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A piercing device ~~wherein comprising:~~
a first shaft having a first axis;
a second shaft having a second axis, the second axis being eccentrically
arranged relative to the first axis;

an outer ~~tube~~ tube rotatably supported on ~~one of shafts, which are~~
~~eccentrically arranged relative to each other,~~ the first shaft so that ~~it~~ the outer tube can be
driven for ~~rotation,~~ rotation;

~~wherein a plurality of piercing needles are arranged~~ rotatably supported on the
~~other of the shafts in said outer tube,~~ second shaft via needle support members, said plurality
of piercing needles being spaced from each other in a circumferential direction, and
projecting radially outwards, and being independently rotatable, ~~each said~~ about the second
axis with respect to each other, the piercing needle needles each being adapted to be extended
extendable and ~~retracted~~ retractable relative to an outer surface of the outer ~~tube,~~ tube via a
~~through hole~~ holes formed in the outer ~~tube,~~ tube; and

~~wherein a needle restraining member is~~ member rotatably supported on said
~~the other~~ the second shaft, for transmitting torque to the piercing needles when driven for
rotation. ~~rotation, wherein said piercing needles are rotatably supported on said the other shaft~~
~~via needle support members, respectively, and wherein said piercing needles and further~~
~~piercing needles, which are rotatable integrally with the said piercing needles, are fixedly~~
~~connected to said needle support members in an axial juxtaposition with each other.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The piercing device according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the outer tube and ~~said~~ the needle support members are connected to a driving means for driving them at a constant speed.

3. (Currently Amended) The piercing device according to claim 1, wherein a rotating radius of ~~said~~ the outer surface of the outer tube and a rotating radius of a tip end of ~~each said piercing needle~~ the plurality of piercing needles are the same with respect to each other, and an amount of eccentricity of ~~said~~ the first and second shafts is within a range of 10-15 mm.

4. (Currently Amended) The piercing device according to claim 2, wherein a rotating radius of ~~said~~ the outer surface of the outer tube and a rotating radius of a tip end of ~~each said piercing needle~~ the plurality of piercing needles are the same with respect to each other, and an amount of eccentricity of ~~said~~ the first and second shafts is within a range of 10-15 mm.